

SAMUEL S. PATTERSON.

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JUNE 1, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. STURTEVANT, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

R E P O R T.

[To accompany H. R. 5798.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5798) granting an increase of pension to Samuel S. Patterson, have examined the same and all the evidence and respectfully report:

This bill as amended proposes to increase from \$12 to \$20 per month the pension of Samuel S. Patterson, of Chicora, Pa.

Soldier served from March 29, 1862, to June 28, 1865, as a private, Battery C, First West Virginia Volunteer Light Artillery, when he was honorably discharged. Prior to this he had served in the Mexican war as private in Company D, Eleventh United States Infantry, from March 2, 1847, to August 16, 1848.

Soldier filed and established a claim under the act of January 29, 1887, and was pensioned as a Mexican survivor at \$8 per month from above date to July 15, 1890, from which date he was pensioned at \$12 per month under the act of June 27, 1890, for slight deafness both ears and senile debility.

He appears never to have filed under the general law.

Certificate of examination by the Butler (Pa.) board describes what is held by the medical branch of the Pension Office to be slight deafness of both ears, and rates him third grade for debility due to age.

In an unsworn statement dated at Butler, Pa., February 6, 1896, S. D. Bell, M. D., says that claimant has many times been threatened with serious brain trouble, has had attacks of loss of memory, numbness of extremities, and many other grave symptoms of the breaking down of the nerve centers. He is totally disabled from doing any kind of work, and most of the time requires the attention and care of another person. Taking into consideration his age and character of his disease, there is no prospect of any improvement.

None of claimant's disabilities are shown to be due to service, and his financial condition is shown to be very poor.

An increase to \$20 is granted on account of age, poverty, and his present physical condition. A greater increase can not be justified, as his disabilities are not due to service.

The bill is reported back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

Line 5, strike out "of Butler, Pennsylvania."

Lines 6 and 7, strike out "war of the rebellion."

Line 9, strike out "of seventy-two" and insert in lieu thereof the words "at the rate of twenty."

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting an increase of pension to Samuel S. Patterson."

